

## Message Text

SECRET

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15

ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 NEA-10

TRSE-00 MBFR-03 SAJ-01 IO-13 OIC-04 AEC-11 ACDA-19

OMB-01 RSR-01 /153 W

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R 220935 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1541

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USNMR SHAPE

USDEL SALT

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

S E C R E T THE HAGUE 2802

E. O. 11652: X- GDS-1

TAGS: PARM, NL

SUBJECT: MBFR: STATIONED/ INDIGENOUS FORCE REDUCTION ISSUE

REF: ( A) BONN 8785 ( B) THE HAGUE 2137

SUMMARY: MFA SOURCE TOLD US THAT VAN DER STOELS' S PROPOSAL AT COPENHAGEN MINISTERIAL WAS EFFORT TO RECONCILE US/ FRG VIEWS AND REMOVE HINDRANCE TO CONCENTRATING NEGOTIONS INITIALLY ON STATIONED FORCES, WITH EMPHASIS ( BUT NOT RESTRICTION TO) US/ SOVIET FORCES. DUTCH AGREE WITH FRG THAT CLEAR PROSPECT FOR INDIGENOUS REDUCTIONS MUST EXIST, BUT THAT FRG APPROACH IS TOO AMBITIOUS. IN DUTCH VIEW PRIORITY ORDER OF PHASES SHOULD BE ( A) STATIONED FORCES, ( B) MIXED PACKAGE REDUCTIONS UNDER US OPTION III AND ( C) INDIGENOUS REDUCTIONS. INCLUSION OF NEGOTIATIONS ON  
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REDUCTION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS IS IMPORTANT MATTER OF PRINCIPLE FOR NEW GOVT, ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCE. END SUMMARY.

1. PRINCIPAL MBFR EXPERT IN MFA NATO / WEU DIVISION ( VAN VLOTEN) PROVIDED FURTHER ELABORATION ON FONMIN VAN DER STOEL' S PROPOSAL AT COPENHAGEN MINISTERIAL IN JUNE 21 CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF. VAN VLOTEN SAID MFA DEVELOPED COMPROMISE APPROACH ADVANCED BY VAN DER STOEL IN EFFORT TO BREAK LOGJAM BUILDING UP BETWEEN US AND FRG POSITIONS. VAN VLOTEN SAID DUTCH SHARE GERMAN VIEW THAT SOME SOLID PROSPECT MUST BE HELD OUT FOR RESPONSIBLE INDIGENOUS FORCE REDUCTIONS; OTHERWISE THEY WILL COME EVENTUALLY, BUT UNILATERALLY AND NOT IN RESPONSIBLE MANNER. VAN VLOTEN BELIEVES THIS VIEW IS WIDELY SHARED BY OTHER ALLIES. DUTCH FEEL, HOWEVER, THAT LEBER/ SCHEEL " ONE PAPER" APPROACH GOES TOO FAR AND WOULD HINDER ACHIEVEMENT OF AGREEMENT ON STATIONED FORCES EMPHASIZING US/ SOVIET FORCES. VAN VLOTEN SAID DUTCH FAVOR PHASED APPROACH ( BUT NOT STICKING STRICTLY TO US OPTION I SCENARIO) GIVING PRIORITY TO PHASES AS FOLLOWS: PHASE I -- REDUCTION OF STATIONED FORCES WITH EMPHASIS ON US/ SOVIET FORCES, BASED ON UNDERSTANDING THAT NEGOTIATIONS ON INDIGENOUS FORCES WILL FOLLOW IN A LATER PHASE; PHASE II -- NEGOTIATION OF MIXED PACKAGE REDUCTIONS UNDER US OPTION III; AND PHASE III -- REDUCTION OF INDIGENOUS FORCES.

2. VAN VLOTEN REITERATED VIEW EXPRESSED TO EMBOFF IN EARLY MAY ( REF B) THAT DUTCH ARE INCLINED TO FAVOR MIXTURE OF ALL THREE US OPTIONS, AND THAT PHASED APPROACH DESIRED BY DUTCH DOES NOT CONFORM STRICTLY TO US OPTION I, BUT IS A MIXTURE OF OPTIONS I AND II, AND OPTION III IS INCLUDED AS ONE OF PHASES IN NEGOTIATIONS, NOT AS AN ALTERNATIVE APPROACH TO OPTION I AND II. WHILE DUTCH WANT NEGOTIATIONS TO BEGIN WITH DISCUSSION OF STATIONED FORCE REDUCTIONS, THEY DO NOT WANT, AT LEAST AT THIS POINT, TO SEE SUCH NEGOTIATIONS RESTRICTED ONLY TO US/ SOVIET STATIONED FORCES. SPEAKING PERSONALLY, VAN VLOTEN SAID THAT AS A PRACTICAL MATTER REDUCTION OF STATIONED FORCES ON NATO SIDE WOULD BE LARGELY, IF NOT ENTIRELY, LIMITED TO US FORCES, AS NONE OF OTHER ALLIES WITH STATIONED FORCES HAS EXPRESSED INTEREST IN FUTURE REDUCTION OF THEIR STATIONED FORCES. ON  
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DUTCH SIDE, TREND OF THINKING BELOW MINISTERIAL LEVEL IN GON ( CABINET HAS NOT YET TAKEN POSITION.) IS TOWARD INCREASING, NOT DECREASING, NUMBER OF FORCES STATIONED IN FRG. FOR THIS REASON, DUTCH DON' T LIKE IDEA OF A CEILING THAT WOULD PREVENT SUCH ADJUSTMENTS IN NON- US STATIONED FORCES.

3. VAN VLOTEN SAID THAT INCLUSION OF OPTION III,

SPECIFICALLY AS IT APPLIES TO NUCLEAR WEAPONS, IN MBFR  
NEGOTIATIONS IS IMPORTANT MATTER OF PRINCIPLE FOR  
PRESENT GOVT. ELECTION PROGRAM OF LABOR PARTY AND ITS  
ALLIES STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF CONTRIBUTION REDUCTION  
OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS COULD MAKE FOR PEACE IN EUROPE, AND  
DEN UYL GOVT INTENDS TO FOLLOW THROUGH ON THIS IN MBFR  
CONTEXT. REGARDING TIMING OF NEGOTIATIONS AND IMPLI-  
MENTATION OF PHASES, VAN VLOTEN SAID GON HAD NO FIRM  
VIEWS ON THIS. HE COULD FORESEE, HOWEVER, THAT  
NEGOTIATIONS OF THREE PHASES MIGHT OVERLAP.  
TANGUY

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